

# Cohasset Mariner

vol. I, no. 26

thursday, march 29, 1979

## Conflict Of Interest Charges Leveled Against Three Officials

By Judith Epstein

Conflict of interest allegations against two members and a former member of the Planning Board were still being considered by Town Counsel this week, after consideration was deferred by Selectmen last week.

Building Inspector James Litchfield and Eric Pearson, owner of Highway Motor Sales, requested in separate letters a determination of possible violations of the conflict of interest law by John Bradley, who is vice-chairman of the Planning Board.

Pearson also directed allegations concerning the possible conflict of interest charge at Glenn Pratt, Chairman of the Planning Board and candidate for Selectman, and Roberta Leary, former member and consultant to the board.

Pratt and Leary have categorically denied the allegations. The Mariner was unable to reach Bradley for comment before press time.

Litchfield said in his letter that Bradley, an attorney with a Boston law firm, served as an agent for William Pinkerson of Ohio, owner of a lot on Surrey Drive, in obtaining a permit for a sewage disposal system to be installed on that property. A disposal works construction permit was issued by the Board of Health Feb. 12.

(This action has met with considerable controversy as questions have been raised over the suitability of the land to

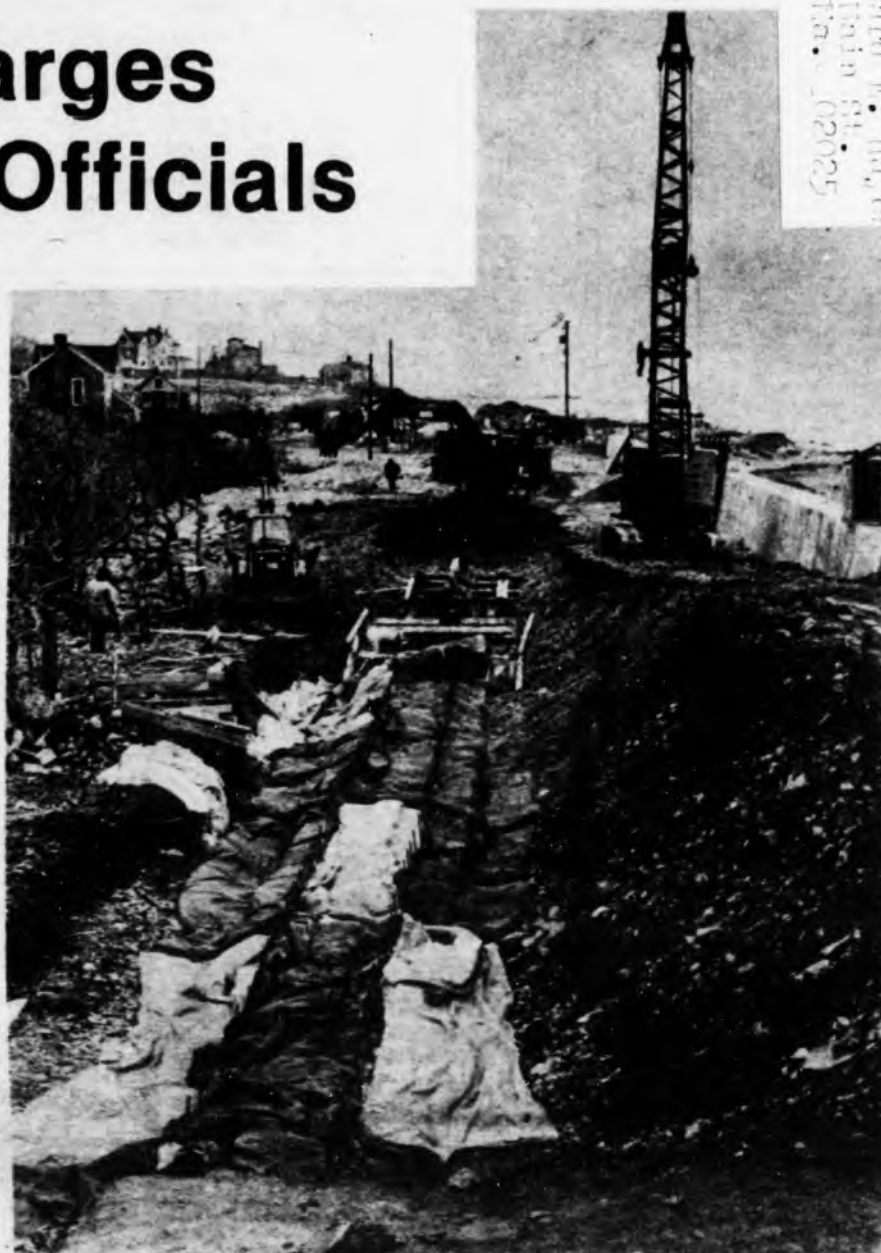
contain a septic tank system. The Kuhns of Surrey Drive, who own the property abutting the Pinkerson lot, represented by Atty. William Golden, obtained a restraining order March 15 to prohibit any construction from taking place on that land. The order was issued against Litchfield, Thomas Sweeney, William Pinkerson and three members of the Board of Health. An April 9 trial at Dedham Superior Court will be held to review the complaint.)

Litchfield said that subsequently a building permit application was submitted to his office on March 7 by the potential owner and contractor, Thomas Sweeney of Assinippi, who sought to build an eight-room colonial house on the property. Litchfield issued a building permit on March 15, he said within the 30 days he had to act under the provisions of the Building Code since receipt of the application.

On the afternoon of March 15, Litchfield was served with a summons from Atty. Joseph Hurley of Braintree on behalf of the Pinkersons (who had not yet received the issued building permit), with the complaint that Litchfield, as Building Inspector and individually, had wrongfully withheld the permit when all requirements for it had been met.

Litchfield said he then contacted Eugene Price, the real estate agent for the

(turn to page 3)



WORK PROGRESSES along the Atlantic on Atlantic Avenue which is blocked off to permit heavy equipment and workers to buttress against sea ravages. (Derr photo)

## School Budget Up 2 Per Cent

The School Committee voted to reduce the new school budget from 2.4 per cent to 2 per cent this week. The decision was made at the conclusion of a public hearing on the new budget, which attracted approximately 20 people.

The \$13,900 reduction, to be taken from the unemployment compensation account, will yield a final budget figure of \$3,531,451.

Business manager John Raftery said that this year's appropriation of \$30,000 for unemployment compensation, an account kept at the suggestion of Town Accountant William Signorelli, was way too high; only \$1,200 had been spent so far. Raftery sanctioned the committee's move to reduce next year's account of \$25,000.

School Supt. John Maloney outlined a broad overview of the budget, which he said, has responded to a declining enrollment by eliminating two elementary teachers, one high school mathematics teacher and one part-time elementary vocal music teacher.

The declining enrollment trend, he said, is well established in Cohasset and through projections based on past experience, the numbers of students currently in school, and estimated population figures, class size can be computed. Class size is easiest to

(turn to page 4)

## Cohasset Seeks Scituate Harbor Help

Selectmen met last week with Scituate Harbormaster John Simons and Town Administrator Richard Bennett to discuss concerns over the use of Cohasset Harbor by residents of both towns.

An imprecise boundary divides the Towns of Scituate and Cohasset through harbor waters from Government Island Pier to the first dolphin buoy at the breakwater. This invisible line also divides Norfolk and Plymouth Counties.

Selectman Arthur Clark expressed concern about Scituate boats routinely moored in Cohasset Harbor, both in

and out of Scituate waters, and asked how Scituate intends to contribute to the maintenance of the harbor.

"We do everything," Clark said. "We do all the work, we supply the ramp to put the boats in the water and parking for Scituate residents. We have spent a lot of money dredging the harbor. What is Scituate going to do with their money?"

Clark further enumerated services rendered to Scituate in the harbor including use of water and electrical outlets for work and repairs made on boats, flood lighting, police night patrol and maintenance and inspection

of mooring tackle.

Bennett said he and Simons had worked out a tentative proposal which offers Cohasset the return of half the mooring fees on Scituate boats in Cohasset waters. Mooring fees are \$1 per linear foot per boat, except for commercial craft, Asst. Scituate Harbormaster Harry Ritter said.

"The total liner footage of Scituate boats is 1587 feet," Ritter said. The \$790 that would be coming in as Scituate's contribution of half their mooring fees won't serve to help in a \$25,000 harbor budget."

(turn to page 2)

## Brown, Gjestebj, Kinchla In School Race

Four candidates are seeking to fill two three-year seats on the School Committee in Town Elections on Saturday, April 14. Announcing this

### Irene Brown

Irene Brown of 35 Norfolk Road has for the past 10 years worked as a Girl Scout leader, school volunteer, Communications Council member, Youth Hockey treasurer, Recreation Commissioner and for 18 months as a School Committee member. She believes her service to youth has familiarized her with their parents and educational goals and thus is also announcing her candidacy for a three-year term.

(turn to page 5)

week were incumbent Irene Brown, Martha Gjestebj, and John Kinchla. Gerard Reed announced his candidacy the previous week.

### Martha Gjestebj

Martha Gjestebj of Old Pasture Road has announced her candidacy for a three-year term on the School Committee.

She is on the Capital Budget and Joint Regional Transportation Committees. Her other community activities include: chairman of the School Communication Council Steering Committee, co-chairman of the Senior

(turn to page 5)

Diana Davis Kornet is an unopposed candidate to fill the Committee's one-year vacancy.

### John Kinchla

John Kinchla has entered the race for a three-year term on the School Committee.

He attended Boston College High School and graduated from Boston College in 1971 with majors in English and finance.

Kinchla has been active in the Jaycees and is secretary and editor of their monthly newsletter. He belongs to the Dramatic Club and Community

(turn to page 5)